

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL



Group of Bee-Keepers at the San Antonio Convention of the
National Bee-Keepers' Association, held
Nov. 8, 9, and 10, 1906



American Bee Journal



PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

GEORGE W. YORK & COMPANY
118 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

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Goes to press Monday morning.

National Bee-Keepers' Association

Objects of the Association.

- 1st.—To promote the interests of its members.
- 2d.—To protect and defend its members in their lawful rights.
- 3d.—To enforce laws against the adulteration of honey.

Annual Membership Dues, \$1.00.

General Manager and Treasurer—
N. E. FRANCE, Platteville, Wis.

If more convenient, Dues may be sent to the publishers of the American Bee Journal.

Bee-Keepers' Souvenir Cards are just the thing.

We send them by Return Mail



As most of our readers know, we have got tenout a Souvenir Postal Card for bee-keepers. The cuts herewith show the card in reduced size, and but one color, while the real card is printed in 4 colors. It could also be sent to honey-customers, to remind them that it is time to buy more honey, etc. There are many uses to which this Card can be put.

Prices—postpaid: 3 cards for 10c (stamps 2 silver), or 5 FREE with the American Bee Journal one year at \$1.00; 10 for 25c. There is a blank space on the card about 2x2 1/2 inches in size for writing. Send all orders to

GEORGE W. YORK & CO.
118 W. Jackson Blvd., CHICAGO, ILL.

Now Is the Time to Order Your

BEE-SUPPLIES

AND SAVE MONEY

It will cost you only one cent for a postal-card to get our **delivered prices on Dovetailed Hives, Sections, Section-Holders, Separators, Brood-Frames, Foundation, Smokers, Extractors, Shipping-Cases, etc.** It may mean a saving to you of many dollars. It is the natural advantage we have over others that enables us to make you the Best Price. There are no better goods than ours, and we **GUARANTEE SATISFACTION or REFUND your MONEY.**

We **MANUFACTURE** and keep in stock all standard Bee-Goods, and can ship promptly.

Minnesota Bee-Keepers' Supply Co.

JOHN DOLL & SON, Proprietors,

Nicollet Island, No. 33,

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Mention Bee Journal when writing.

Dittmer's Gomb Foundation

Why do thousands of bee-keepers prefer it to other makes?

Because the bees like it best and accept it more readily.

Dittmer's Process is Dittmer's

It stands on its **OWN NAME** and its **OWN FOUNDATION**, to which alone it owes its reputation and merits.

We are now ready to make prices for next season for **WORKING WAX** for CASH and for full line of Supplies. Wholesale and Retail. **Free Catalog and Samples.**

GUS DITTMER, Augusta, Wis.

Mention Bee Journal when writing.

Western Bee-Keepers We Will Show You how to save money. Send for our new catalog of the best Bee-ware made.

THE COLORADO HONEY-PRODUCERS' ASS'N, Denver, Colo.
9A1f Please mention the Bee Journal.

Best No. 1 Sections per 1000, \$4.00; No. 2, \$3.40; plain, 25c less. Discounts on Danz. and Root's hives, and other Root's Goods; also Berry Boxes. Bees for sale.

H. S. DUBY, St. Anne, Ill.
6A14t Please mention the Bee Journal.

TENNESSEE-BRED QUEENS

All from Extra-Selected Mothers

3-band from Imported Dark Leather, Moore's Long-Tongue, or my own. Golden from Laws, Doolittle's or my own. Caucasians and Carniolans from direct Imported.

AFTER APRIL 15TH.

Italians Before July 1st				After July 1st			CARNIOLANS			CAUCASIANS		
	1	6	12	1	6	12	1	6	12	1	6	12
Untested	\$.75	\$4.00	\$7.50	\$.60	\$3.25	\$6.00	\$.85	\$4.50	\$8.00	\$.95	\$5.00	\$8.50
Select Untested	1.00	5.00	9.00	.75	4.25	8.00	1.10	5.50	9.50	1.20	6.00	10.00
Tested	1.50	8.00	15.00	1.25	6.50	12.00	1.60	8.50	15.50	1.70	9.00	16.00
Select Tested..	2.00	10.00	18.00	1.50	8.00	15.00	2.10	10.50	18.50	2.20	11.00	19.00

Straight 5-band Golden Breeders.....	\$10.00	1-frame Nucleus (no queen)	\$1.50
Select Golden Breeders	3.00	2-frame "	2.00
" 3-band "	3.00	3-frame "	2.50
" Carniolan "	3.10	4-frame "	3.00
" Caucasian "	3.25	1 full colony without queen in 8-frame dovetailed hive	6.00

Bees by the pound in light shipping-boxes, \$1.00 per pound.

Select the Queen wanted, and add the price to the above prices.

Discounts on large orders. Contracts with dealers a specialty. No bee-disease has ever been in this section.

17A4t 21D1f

JOHN M. DAVIS, Spring Hill, Tenn.

Mention Bee Journal when writing.

Hershiser Wax-Press

And Other LEWIS BEE-SUPPLIES

Good Goods and Prompt Shipment

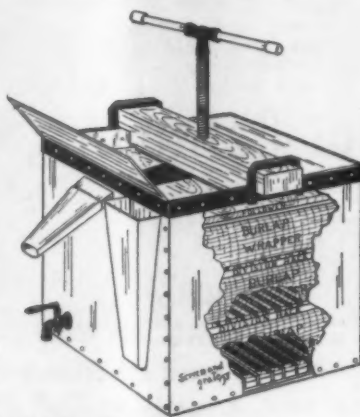
Any bee-keeper can save money, as long as the goods last, on almost any supplies needed next season, by taking advantage of our

Fire Sale of Bee and Poultry Supplies

Have sold several thousand dollars worth of these goods, and no complaint.

Send for list of Slightly Damaged Goods to select from at Reduced Prices. Also for 1907 Catalog of New Goods.

Quote us prices on Honey and Beeswax. Honey in 60-pound cans for sale.



H. M. ARND, Proprietor, York Honey and Bee-Supply Co. (Not Inc.)

Long Distance Telephone, North 1559. 191 AND 193 SUPERIOR ST. CHICAGO, ILL.
(Three blocks north and one block east of our old location.)

TAYLOR'S STRAIN OF ITALIANS IS THE BEST

Long Tongues and Golden are best of honey-gatherers: 18 yrs. a specialty, breeding for best honey-gatherers. Untested, 75c. or \$3 a doz.; Tested, \$1. or \$10 a doz.; Select Tested, \$1.50. Breeders, very best, from \$3 to \$5. Carniolans same price. Try them. We also sell Nuclei and full colonies. Bees in separate yards. Safe arrival guaranteed.

J. W. TAYLOR & SON
BEEVILLE, Bee Co., TEXAS.

13A104

BEE-KEEPERS

Write us now for our Catalog and get low prices on good, honest,

BEE-KEEPERS' SUPPLIES

Our specialty is making Sections. All other goods up-to-date.

AUG. LOTZ & SON, Cadott, Wis.
10A34t Please mention the Bee Journal

BEE AND POULTRY SUPPLIES

Bee-Hives, Honey-Boxes, Vells, Smokers, Incubators, Brooders, Egg-Food, etc. Every thing needed for the "Busy Bee" and the "Industrious Hen." Prompt shipments.

LEWIS' FAMOUS BEE-WARE. LEE'S POPULAR PRODUCTS FOR POULTRY

Catalog for either, with instructions to beginners—Free.

29A1f **C. M. SCOTT CO. 1005 E. Wash. St., Indianapolis, Ind.**

QUEENS FOR YOU

Golden, Carniolan, Caucasian, and 3-band Italians—your choice. Prices: Untested, \$1; Tested, \$1.25. Prices on large quantities or on Bees given on application. Address,

NEW CENTURY QUEEN-REARING CO.
JOHN W. PHARR, Prop., Berclair, Texas.
12A1f Please mention the Bee Journal.

The Rietsche Press

Made of artificial stone. Practically indestructible, and giving entirely satisfactory results. Comb foundation made easily and quickly at less than half the cost of buying from the dealers. Price of Press for L. frame sheets, \$2.00. Other sizes, 25 cents extra. Price of the Press making the foundation directly on the wired frames, \$2.50, any size wanted.

ADRIAN GETAZ,

45A1f KNOXVILLE, TENN.
Mention Bee Journal when writing.

For Sale 160 Acre Farm and 100 Colonies of Bees. Good out-buildings; good 8-room house—on Wisconsin river. Address, O. C. FITTS,

10A13t KILBOURN, WIS.
Mention Bee Journal when writing.

Queen-Clipping Device Free!



The MONETTE Queen-Clipping Device is a fine thing for use in catching and clipping Queens' wings. It is used by many bee-keepers. Full printed directions sent with each one. We mail it for 25 cents; or will send it FREE as a premium for sending us One New subscriber to the Bee Journal for a year at \$1.00; or for \$1.10 we will mail the Bee Journal one year and the Clipping Device. Address,
GEORGE W. YORK & CO.,
CHICAGO, ILL.

"If goods are wanted Quick, send to Pouder."

Established 1889.

Coming On Through Freight

By the Bee-Crank.

There's a lot of talk these days about car shortage. If you are curious to experience a taste of what it means, order your next bill of Supplies shipped from some out-of-the-way point, and then sit down and await developments.

But if, like most bee-men, you haven't much time to sit in idleness—if you order your Supplies because you need them—better cut out the experiment business and order from Pouder. There is no car shortage in Indianapolis. There never is, and in the nature of things there is no likeli-



hood of there ever being one. Indianapolis is the center point of a lot of the big trunk-line systems of the country. Cars pour in here by the thousand daily, from every quarter. When your order is received by me in the morning, by nightfall the shipment is booming along on the way by through freight, straight for your place, and it keeps moving until it reaches you.

I carry a full line of the Root goods at Root prices, and I not only save you time, but I save money in freight charges.

BEESWAX—send it along. I will pay the highest market price at all times. Send by freight or express, according to size of shipment.

Walter S. Pouder 513-515 Massachusetts Avenue
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Trade Notes

The A. I. Root Company, Medina, Ohio

GASOLINE ENGINES

A four-page article on the use of large honey-extractors with gasoline engines is found in the May 15th Gleanings. The article is fully illustrated and well worth 25 cents to any one interested in the production of extracted honey. When labor is high and help hard to find the gasoline engine and power extractor come in to help the bee-keeper out and save his crop. Send for this number of Gleanings. Price, 10 cents. Six months to new subscribers (12 copies) for only 25 cents, and your money refunded if dissatisfied in any way.

BEEES AND QUEENS

There is sure to be a heavy demand for bees and queens for months to come, on account of the large losses all over the North during the past month, because of the continued unfavorable weather. If you want to requeen your apiary, or get a good breeding queen, or restock your empty hives, you should send your order at once to secure delivery early. There is sure to be a large demand and consequent inability of breeders to supply promptly, so remember, "first come, first served."

PRICE-LIST of BEEES AND QUEENS

HOME-BRED ITALIAN QUEENS

	Oct. to June.	June to Oct.
Untested queen.....	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.00
Select untested queen.....	1.50	1.25
Tested queen.....	2.50	2.00
Select tested queen.....	3.50	3.00
Breeding queens.....	6.00	5.00
Select breeding queens.....	9.00	7.50
Extra select breeding queens, 1 year old.....	12.00	10.00

IMPORTED ITALIAN QUEENS

Best imported queens.....	\$5.00
Fair imported queens.....	3.00

SOUTHERN-BRED ITALIAN QUEENS

For those who desire to get pure Italian stock at a moderate price, we are prepared to furnish queens direct from our breeders in the South at the following scale of prices:

	Oct. to June.	June to Oct.
Untested queens.....	\$1.00	\$.75
Select untested queens.....	1.25	1.00
Tested queens.....	1.75	1.50
Select tested queens.....	3.00	2.50

5-BANDED ITALIAN, CARNIOLANS, OR CAUCASIANS

These will be furnished at the same prices as our home-bred Italian queens.

PRICES OF NUCLEI AND COLONIES

	Oct. to June.	June to Oct.
1-frame nucleus, without queen..	\$ 3.00	\$ 2.00
2 frame nucleus, without queen ..	4.50	3.00
3-frame nucleus, without queen ..	5.50	3.50
Colony in 8 fr. Dov'd hive, no queen.....	10.00	7.50
Colony in 10-fr. Danz. hive, no queen.....	11.00	8.00
Colony in 10 fr. Dov'd hive, no queen.....	12.00	9.00

We can supply with the nuclei any of the queens mentioned in this list. When one buys an extra-select queen, or any high-priced queen, he would do well to have her come in a nucleus. This will assure safe arrival.

Where a customer desires a queen's wings clipped a charge of 25 cents extra will be made.

BEE-MODELS

There are a good many bee-keepers who will admit they ought to know more about the anatomy of the bee; but owing to the difficulties surrounding the subject they have thus far been unable to acquaint themselves in the least with the marvelous structure of the honey-bee. For such persons there has been constructed a *pasteboard* bee, showing all the internals of a queen and also a drone in a manner that leaves little to be desired. With the aid of the key, any intelligent person may soon become well acquainted with the anatomy of the bee and the proper name of each organ. First, there is a life-like representation of the queen and drone (separately). By lifting the outer covering the breathing apparatus and digestive system are unfolded; lifting again there will be found the reproductive system and poison glands; and by again lifting, the nervous system is clearly outlined. Everything is as clear as daylight, as each part and organ is numbered, and the key which we send gives the correct scientific name of the same. Our models of the queen measure 6½ inches, while those of the drone are 5½ inches. We can furnish either with key at 50 cts. postpaid.

THE A B C OF BEE CULTURE

The 1907 edition (English) will be ready early in the coming fall. A complete French edition ("A B C de L'Apiculture") is ready for mailing; price of this edition \$2.00, postpaid. We are booking orders for the German edition, which is expected by Sept. 1st. The price of this is also \$2.00, postpaid.

THE SWARTHMORE LIBRARY

A series of booklets on bee-subjects by E. L. Pratt, of Pennsylvania, known to the bee-keeping world as "Swarthmore." These books are full of the most valuable information. The Swarthmore method of queen-rearing is spoken of as the most important innovation in bee-keeping of recent years.

INCREASE.—The first of the series. Any one desiring to enlarge his apiary should learn the Swarthmore way. Price, postpaid, 25 cts. French edition, entitled, "Accroissement," 50 cts. postpaid.

BABY NUCLEI.—The using of little frames and a handful of bees for mating queens has created quite a stir in the queen-rearing business. From this booklet you get your information direct. Price, postpaid, 25 cts. French edition, entitled, "Nuclei Miniatures," 50 cts. postpaid.

COMMERCIAL QUEEN-REARING.—A complete description of the Swarthmore methods of queen-rearing in regard to cell-getting. Price, postpaid, 25 cts.

SIMPLIFIED QUEEN-REARING.—Revised edition. It tells the honey-producer how to rear queens by the very simplest method ever published. Good queens for little money and little trouble, in just an effective and economical plan for the bee-keeper who works for profit. Price, 25 cts. postpaid.

THE A. I. ROOT CO., Medina, Ohio



(Entered at the Post-Office at Chicago as Second-Class Mail-Matter.)

Published Weekly at \$1.00 a Year, by George W. York & Co., 118 W. Jackson Blvd.

GEORGE W. YORK, Editor

CHICAGO, ILL., MAY 9, 1907

Vol XLVII—No. 19



Detecting Adulterants in Honey

A subscriber in New Zealand writes as follows:

Is there any easy method which an ordinary bee-keeper might apply to detect the presence of adulterants in honey?

In New Zealand the public buy the comb honey because they know it can not be faked. It seems to be a more sensible view than that of the United States of America public. We don't nearly meet the demand for comb honey here.

We don't know of any unless it be by the taste. It is not very difficult to detect the presence of glucose by the taste.

New Zealand is ahead of the world in a good many ways, and you are to be congratulated that your public is so intelligent that it knows comb honey can not be faked. Here, too large a proportion of the public believes not only that comb honey can be, but that it is faked. But the tide seems to be turning, and we are counting much on what will be effected by our pure-food laws.

Brevity Sometimes Dangerous

Brevity is desirable, but it should not omit an essential part of a story. Mr. D. M. MacDonald occupies a page and a half of the British Bee Journal with what he calls gems from "Forty Years Among the Bees." The work is exceedingly well done, but the brevity of the extracts, averaging perhaps 4 lines each, may in a few cases lead to misunderstanding when such short statements are taken without the context.

The sentence, "I have found no way of securing all worker-comb except by having it built by a weak colony." Taken alone that might be understood to show that weak colonies were generally used for building comb,

and that Dr. Miller had not learned the value of comb foundation. On the contrary, it is well known that Dr. Miller is an earnest advocate of full sheets of foundation, both for brood-combs and sections, and the number of brood-combs in his hives not so produced are exceedingly few. A statement of the whole truth would be, "I have found no way of having the bees build all worker-comb without the use of foundation except by having the comb built in a very weak colony. My practise is to have combs built in strong colonies on worker-foundation."

Another extract reads: "If a colony has 9, 10, or more frames of brood, all but 8 are taken away." Somewhat vague as it stands, but some might understand a disapproval of more than 8 frames of brood to the colony at any time. On the contrary, the largest amount of brood is encouraged up to the time of putting on supers, when each colony is reduced to one story of 8 frames each.

"Increase is made by taking frames to the out-apiary, and, of course, bees stay wherever they are put, and work up into a colony." The last part of the sentence suggests the advantage of making increase in that way, but the labor of moving to the out-apiary is no small item, and as a matter of fact the plan is seldom used.

Possibly some of D. M. M.'s readers would be less puzzled if he would clear up these few points.

Nuclei and Colonies

A nucleus is well understood to be a very weak colony of bees, but just where is the dividing line between a nucleus and a colony is not so well understood, just as it is not always easy to say when a boy becomes a man. Perhaps it might be said that anything

less than 3 Langstroth frames, fairly well covered with bees, is a nucleus, and anything more is a colony. That leaves 3 frames of brood covered with bees to be called sometimes a nucleus and sometimes a colony. The time of year may have something to do with it. Hundreds of colonies come out of winter quarters with no more than 3 frames covered with bees—yes, thousands of them; and many with less than that, and yet at that time of year they are called colonies. In the middle of summer they would hardly be called colonies, but nuclei. Then there are the "baby nuclei" about which so much has been said lately, consisting of 1, 2, or 3 very small combs, with a correspondingly small number of bees.

Higher Postage Rate to Canada

Beginning with May 8, the postage rate on all United States periodicals mailed to Canada was quadrupled, which will compel us to raise the subscription price on the weekly American Bee Journal to all Canadian subscribers, from \$1.00 a year to \$1.50. This is made necessary from the following notice which was recently sent out by our Postmaster-General, Hon. G. v. L. Meyer, at Washington, D. C.:

"It is hereby ordered that, commencing on the 8th day of May, 1907, the postage rate applicable in the United States to 'second-class matter' addressed for delivery in Canada shall be one cent for each four (4) ounces or fraction of four (4) ounces, calculated on the weight of each package and prepaid by means of postage stamps affixed."

This will compel us to put a 1-cent stamp on each copy of the American Bee Journal mailed into Canada, beginning with this week's issue. Therefore, our Canadian readers will please take notice of the increase in price when renewing their subscriptions, which increase is not our wish at a but is made necessary, as stated, through international postal agreement.

Of course, every Canadian subscriber now on our list will receive the Bee Journal the full time for which he has paid, regardless of the heavy extra postage bill we are called on to pay. It will be quite a loss to us, but the American Bee Journal means to do as it agrees. We trust that our Canadian readers will continue their kindly support right along.

American Bee Journal



Working Under Difficulties—that's what we have been doing in order to get this number of the American Bee Journal out on time. It is a rather serious matter to move a printing office, and be able to find everything again very soon. But in a week or two more we will have everything in "apple-pie order," and running as smoothly as ever. Please remember we are never so much interrupted that we can't take care of all renewals and new subscriptions for the old American Bee Journal that may be sent to us.

Honey Conditions in Southern California.—We have received the following from Mr. John Stewart, of Southern California, dated April 28, 1907:

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL—

The enclosed from the Los Angeles Times for April 26, is true of the conditions of the honey-production in the fog-belt near the coast in Southern California; but more inland, in the orange-producing districts, the conditions have been better for a fair honey crop this year. The swarming season is on.

JOHN STEWART.

From the clipping sent we condense the following:

Bees are dying every day this spring, while there are flowers in abundance. In some places the bee-men have to feed their bees daily on sugar to keep them alive, while in the hills and orange groves there are millions of blossoms.

This strange condition is laid to the cool, cloudy weather which is a great hardship on the busy bee, and which has prevented the development of the honey-producing element in the flowers. A continuation of such weather as has prevailed the past week will cut down the honey-supply materially. A week of sunshine will be the means of saving many valuable colonies of bees throughout Southern California.

Such is the summary of conditions as indicated by reports received by H. J. Mercer, Secretary of the California National Honey-Producers' Association. Mr. Mercer believes that unless there is a decided change in weather conditions within a few days, the crop will fall far behind that of last year, and that also was a great disappointment to bee-keepers.

Reports come from various sections that the bees start out to gather honey, load themselves down, and then are overcome by the cool and damp weather, and fall along the way to die of exhaustion. This is a condition reported from various bee-ranches in widely scattered localities.

Then the bees will not go out on the cold and foggy mornings, and, as a result, there is a consumption of the honey already stored in the hives. In some cases colonies have eaten themselves out of honey-supply, and actually have starved before their condition was discovered, and all this has occurred within a very few days.

Yesterday a shipment of 1000 pounds of white granulated sugar was sent up to Charles Ebert, in the canyon above Azusa, to feed his bees that are on the point of starving. Other bee-keepers have been feeding for the past 2

weeks—the very period when the bees ought to be laying in large amounts of honey.

Such reports come from La Canada, Providencia and Chatsworth. Emerson brothers, near Fullerton, who have 1200 colonies of bees, report that the bees are dying of exhaustion these cool days, and that they have consumed their supplies in many cases.

Similar reports come from T. O. Andrews, at Corona, who has 400 colonies, and from J. W. George, at Perris, Riverside county, who has gone into bee-keeping on an extensive scale. A like discouraging report comes from M. H. Mendleson, of Piru, who has begun to feed his bees to keep them from starving on a ranch which has been famous for its fruit-trees, and which have been simply aglow with blossoms.

The bee-ranch of L. E. Mercer, in the Castaic Canyon, is said to be the largest in the United States. He has close to 2000 colonies in this canyon, and has them scattered about in 6 locations. The season started in with brightest prospects for a record-breaking year for honey-producers, says this veteran bee-man. There was a wealth of blossoms, brought about by the extensive wet season, but this has not availed. A few weeks ago Mr. Mercer estimated that he would have fully 100 tons of honey from this season's work. Now he has scaled this down to a crop of 50 tons, and unless there is a change very soon in weather conditions, he thinks this will still be reduced.

The bee and honey business has reached an extent in Southern California that is little realized. The report of last year made by the Los Angeles County Statistician, gives the number of colonies of bees as 40,000, and their value as \$200,000; and the amount of bees-wax marketed as 9000 pounds, with a value of \$2050.

E. A. Fischer, Inspector of Apiaries for Los Angeles county, said yesterday that he is convinced there has been an increase of fully 10,000 colonies of bees in this county since the report was made. He has been waging a constant war against the spread of "foul brood," and believes that with the co-operation of the honey-producers the pest will be kept down to the minimum.

The first honey to come into the Los Angeles markets is from the orange-growing sections, stretching from Pasadena to San Bernardino and Redlands. This orange-blossom honey is generally of fine quality, but it has the objection of granulating quickly. The first arrivals of this honey are now due; but honey merchants in Los Angeles said yesterday that there is no prospect of shipments here for at least 3 weeks.

A factor showing the extent of the honey industry is the record of sales by one firm in this city which makes a business of supplying bee-keepers. This shows that there were sent out from the place last year more than 50,000 5-gallon cans for the storage of honey.

Anticipating a shortage of crop, H. J. Mercer has been storing honey for the past 2 years, and since last July he has sold to Los Angeles merchants alone honey amounting to \$35,000. This surplus honey is now well cleaned out, and with the partial failure of the present season's crop, there is certain to be a soaring of honey-prices that will make the sweet substance taste like money.

The National pure-food law, which has affected the marketing of so many products, has also had its effect on the honey-market, and has put the producers of pure ex-

tracted honey in their proper position, where they do not have to compete with adulterated honeys.

The merchants now require wholesalers of extracted honey to give them a written guarantee of its purity, as a matter of protection to the merchants, and this is gladly done by the concerns which have heretofore had to compete with the "dope."

Surely, the foregoing is not a very encouraging report for the bee-keepers of Southern California. It is hoped, however, that for their sakes, if not for the sakes of the bee-keepers of the rest of the country, honey conditions may yet take a turn for the better, so that there may be at least a fair crop of honey harvested by the bee keepers in the region mentioned by the clipping from the Los Angeles Times.

But evidently honey is to be honey this year, as a good share of the North has had a cold, backward spring, which, in all probability, will prevent the bees from being ready for the honey crop even if it is in the flowers later on.

Ode (Owed) to the Weather Man

Weather is cold. Bees don't get out more than 2 days in the week. Yesterday it snowed.

I don't know how the others feel
About this horrid weather;
I wonder if 'twould help to squeal
If we all squealed together.

The pussy willows blossomed fine,
The clover started growing;
But soon the sun forgot to shine—
'Most all the time it's snowing.

The weather man who did these things—
Who brought this useless freeze—
Just ought to bee-filled up with stings—
I'd like to furnish bees.

Bellevue, Mich., May 1. C. H. BENSON.

Rev. Robt. B. McCain, of Oswego, Ill., called on us in our new quarters at 118 W. Jackson Blvd. last Friday. He reports cold weather in his locality, but expects a good honey season just the same. We had quite a snow-storm in Chicago the day he was here—May 3.

Getting New Subscribers for the Bee Journal is something that almost any reader can do if he makes a sincere attempt. No one knows better than does he its value to every would-be successful bee-keeper. And we offer valuable premiums, to those of our present readers whose subscriptions are paid in advance, for the work of going out and getting new subscriptions. Your neighbor bee-keepers perhaps have never heard of the American Bee Journal, although it is now in its 47th year. Why not try to get them to subscribe? You may be surprised how readily they will do so upon your invitation.

The San Antonio Convention Picture is a good one. It shows over 100 of those in attendance. We are mailing them, unmounted, for only 60 cents. They can be mounted by a local photographer for only 10 or 15 cents more. We will mail one of these pictures with the American Bee Journal one year—both for only \$1.40. Send all orders to the Bee Journal office.

American Bee Journal



Facts About Swarming of Bees

BY ADRIAN GETAZ

Among the different kinds of work done by the European Societies of Agriculturists is now and then a study of some subject connected with bee-keeping. A series of questions or experiments is submitted to the members with the request to observe or experiment during the ensuing summer, and report. It is not obligatory on the members, so only those who can do take part. Sometimes when the experiments requested involve a notable expense of time or money, prizes are offered to be given to those who have done the best work. Among the apiarists are found a good many who have for a number of years studied some subjects, or kept note, of whatever happened in their apiaries. It is through some arrangements of that sort that the following information on the swarming question was obtained, principally through the efforts of Mr. Thibault, Secretary of the Societe du Bassin de la Meuse.

TIME OF SWARMING.

In the country covered by the observations (northeastern part of France), the swarming commences on an average date on May 28 and ends on June 20. The extreme dates have been from May 17 to June 13 for the beginning, and from June 6 to July 4 for the ending.

Duration: An average of 24 days. It is understood that these dates refer to the northeast part of France. Other localities differ for different seasons. For instance, in Belgium Mr. Mercier gives for the swarming period from May 20 to June 30.

A full study of the swarming period observed during 20 years in an apiary of about 80 colonies is given. I will not reproduce it here in full. Out of the 20 years 3 were quite early, 10 near the average, 5 late, and 2 very irregular so far as the dates and duration of the swarming period are concerned.

Taking all the information obtained in consideration, the average number of first swarms is put down in the following proportions: One-fifth in May; $\frac{1}{2}$ from June 1 to June 10; $\frac{1}{4}$ from June 10 to June 20; 1-10 after that date. Very few swarms come out before May 25, and very few after June 20, so the apiarist could go to the expense of close watching only between these dates.

TIME OF THE DAY.

The limits observed are 8:15 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the extreme cases. On

the total number observed, 5 percent issued before 10 a.m., 22 percent between 10 and 12, 56 percent between 12 and 2 p.m., 15 percent between 2 and 3 p.m., and 2 percent after 3 p.m.

THE WEATHER.

Needless to say that the bees will not swarm when it is raining. To what extent they may do it in cloudy but not actually rainy weather has unfortunately not been noted. The wind, when the weather is otherwise favorable, seems to have considerable influence. Evidently no swarm will issue on a stormy day. But in fair weather 82 percent of the swarms issued during no wind, or a light wind, and only 18 percent with a wind of medium strength or more.

As could be expected, the temperature has a paramount influence. Eighty-nine percent of the swarms issued when the temperature was above 68 degrees Fahr., in the shade, and 11 percent when below. One swarm issued at a temperature of 59 degrees, and the weather "nearly raining." That was the lowest observation.

It was also ascertained that by far the largest number of swarms issue when the barometer is high, but as the state of the weather as to being more or less cloudy or more or less warm was not observed in connection with it, the fact has but little value.

POSITION OF THE HIVES.

Eighty-six percent of the swarms issue when the sun shines on the entrance. It seems by that that the number of the swarms ought to be materially decreased when the hives are in a shaded place. It is also stated that a very large proportion of the swarms issue from hives turned otherwise. Unfortunately the number of hives turned either way was not recorded. As most of them are turned toward the south, or nearly so, most of the swarms come from such hives in at least the same proportion. It would have been interesting to ascertain this point fully and find out whether the direction has any influence at all, and if it has whether it is due to a higher temperature, or to the actual shining of the sun on the entrance, or perhaps something else.

NATURE OF THE BEES.

The disposition to swarm varies excessively with the different races, and in the same race with the different varieties, and even the different individual colonies. Nothing definite could be deducted from the reports. It is stated that in France fully 99 percent of the colonies are the common black bees.

In one of the apiaries reported (probably that of Mr. Thibault himself) everything is recorded in detail since 1883. A study of the swarming in that apiary brings out some interesting facts concerning the vitality of the different strains or varieties of bees. Suppose an apiary of 100 colonies to start with. These colonies and the swarms produced by them will swarm more or less every year. After 20 years, out of the 100 colonies 42 will have disappeared entirely, not only themselves, but the swarms that descended from them in succession. Eighteen will be represented by one colony each; 16 by 2 colonies each; 8 by 3 colonies each; 4 by 4 colonies each; 4 by 5 to 9 colonies each; 4 by from 10 to 19; 2 by from 20 to 29; 2 by 30 or more. It is also shown by the tables given that the colonies having left the largest number of descendants are those which swarmed neither very early nor very late.

AGE OF THE QUEEN.

Out of 301 swarms 130 were from colonies having swarmed the year before, and therefore had queens one year old; 61 from colonies having swarmed 2 years before; 44 from colonies having swarmed 3 years before; 66 from colonies having swarmed from 4 to 12 years before. These can not be taken into account. Evidently nearly all their queens had been superseded and therefore their age can not be ascertained. Some may have swarmed unobserved.

It would seem by these figures that the age of the queens has but little to do with the swarming question. This was quite a puzzle to me. I would have thought that the colonies with queens but one year old would have swarmed considerably less than those with older queens. At least that is certainly the case in my apiaries.

After considerable reflection on the subject I came to the conclusion that the discrepancy is due not exactly to the "locality," but to the hives used. In Europe most of the hives are yet the old-fashioned straw hives. The straw is all right enough, but the hives are usually entirely too small. Now when a colony is decidedly too crowded, and the space is lacking for brood and surplus, the colony will swarm if the conditions of weather and honey-flow are favorable, no matter how old or young the queen may be. And, after all, I do not know but that under such circumstances the colonies with young queens might swarm the most, since the young queens, being the best layers, would get the colonies crowded the soonest or the most.

THE DRONES.

Fifty-four percent of the swarms observed came from colonies having a great many drones, and 46 percent from colonies having but few. Mr. Thibault adds, however, that while it does not make much difference whether there are many or few drones, no colony will swarm when there are none at all. He also says that a queen which is not defective in some way or other will not lay any drone-eggs during the year she has been reared; that means a queen less than a full year old.

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He advocates as prevention of swarming requeening just before the main honey-flow; that is, as far as that part of France is concerned.

NEARNESS TO WATER.

Owing to the fact that the bees need a considerable quantity of water to rear their brood in the spring, it was supposed that the proximity to a suitable place to get water would increase the amount of brood reared, and the swarming would occur sooner. The reports fail to show any noticeable difference.

SIZE OF THE HIVE.

On 722 hives observed during 7 years, it has been found that out of 100 colonies lodged in straw hives of a capacity of nearly a cubic foot, 60 to 70 will swarm. Out of 100 lodged in one-story movable-comb hives of a capacity of about 2 cubic feet, 25 to 30 will swarm. And, finally, out of 100 lodged in Dant-Blatt hives, with enough supers to accommodate them fully, only 5 will swarm. Mr. Guillemin reported that in his own apiary with such hives, many years have passed without any swarm at all.

AMOUNT OF HONEY.

In regard to the quantity of honey in the hive, 45 percent of the swarms observed came out of colonies having less than 20 pounds of honey; 41 percent from those having between 20 and 40 pounds. And what puzzles me most, only 14 percent from colonies having 40 to 60 pounds of honey. I would have thought that the colonies having the most honey would be those crowding the queen the worst, and therefore the most liable to swarm. The size of the hives should have been noted, but was not, so that no certain conclusion can be deducted.

EMPTY COMBS.

If the quantity of honey present in the hive has no influence in itself, that is, no direct influence on the swarming, it may have a great influence in restricting the amount of empty comb. Eighty swarms out of 100 issued from colonies where the amount of empty comb was insufficient for both the queen and the workers. Hence, the advantage of large hives.

Concerning the straw hives, Mr. Thibault thinks the best mode of management is that which consists in adding just before the honey-flow another body under the old one. That is practically the equivalent of the Simmins method.

If I were working for extracted honey, I would certainly try putting the supers under rather than above the brood-nest. When working for comb honey it is different, because the sections would be badly travel-stained.

HONEY-FLOW.

The first swarm of an apiary usually issues 6 or 7 days after the main flow has begun. The dates may vary some years between 4 and 13 days, not counting colonies swarming on account of some exceptional conditions. It follows that the preparations for swarming are begun before the main flow occurs; at least in that part of

France. It might not be so everywhere else, by any means.

In discussing this subject, Mr. Thibault recalls the well-known fact (in Europe) that there are but few swarms when the honey-flow is heavy and of long duration.

Knoxville, Tenn.

Why and How to Clip Queens' Wings

BY G. M. DOOLITTLE

In a recent article I told the readers of the American Bee Journal how to find queens; giving as plain directions as possible, so that even a novice could find one. Perhaps some of the readers wondered at this, thinking that it would not be necessary to find one queen out of 20 during the season, but, according to my views, all queens should be seen at least once a year for the purpose of clipping their wings.

This clipping of queens' wings has been under discussion for many years, and while the majority of practical apiarists agree, that, to reap the best results the wings of all laying queens should be clipped, a few oppose it, claiming that swarming is conducted with more labor, and also that such a practise will tend toward the weakening of the wing-power of our bees in years to come. Without stopping to discuss these matters further just now, except to say that I believe both points raised are fallacious, I will tell the readers why I clip the wings of my queens.

In the first place, a queen with her wings all clipped short is more readily found when looked for than the one having her wings, and as in our manipulations with bees, it is often very necessary to see the queen so as to keep her when and where we desire, this finding of a queen is quite an important item. And as the average beekeeper can find a "fully" clipped queen in less than half the time it takes to find an unclipped queen, this saving in time is often quite an important matter.

Second, in the swarming season we have complete control of the bees, so that we can compel them to do just about what we wish them to do. The first idea of clipping queens' wings was to keep the swarm from flying off to the woods, as all know that as soon as a swarm misses its queen it will come back to the old or parent hive again; but valuable as this idea is, still there are other points which I consider of far more importance than the roving of now and then a swarm which might result during the season from the apiarist not seeing them in time for their hiving, or the occasional swarm that might go off without even alighting.

My home apiary is located near a piece of woodland with tall trees near by, and by having the wings of all queens clipped I do not worry about such swarms as may cluster 40 or 50 feet up from the ground in these trees, for as soon as the bees notice their loss of queen, they will uncluster and return to the old stand hunting for their queen; so by having the queens

clipped I am complete master of this situation; never having to climb tall trees (where none but prime swarms are allowed to issue), and never having to cut off limbs of lower trees to secure the swarm, as is done many times to the mutilating of valuable trees.

Then in hiving such swarms as have their queens clipped, all that is necessary is to set the new hive in the place of the parent hive till the bees return and run in with their queen, which you will let loose at the proper time, having picked her up and caged her as soon as the swarm was on the wing. As soon as the bees are in the new hive, having hived themselves, as it were, the hive is picked up and set where we wish it to stand, and the old one put back where it was before. Or we can leave the new hive with the swarm on the old stand, and carry the old hive to a new stand, just in accord with our practise of working an apiary. Then you are sure in having the queen go into the hive just where you wish her, as you have her in the cage at your command, while if she were with the swarm she might run under the hive, or take wing and go back on the limb where the bees clustered, taking them with her, etc.; in fact, doing unthought-of things apparently just to perplex and annoy the apiarist.

Again, in an apiary containing from 10 to 100 colonies, it frequently happens that two or more swarms will come out near the same time and cluster together, when we have a perfect nuisance where the queens are enabled to fly with the bees; but where their wings are clipped these bees can be separated so as to have only one swarm in a hive as easily as any stock mixed together could be. And, lastly, if for any reason we are not ready to hive the swarm when it comes out, and therefore wish to hold the swarm on a limb or pole while we make a hive or something of the kind, we can keep them as long as we please by simply hanging the caged queen with the cluster. If they try to go off through our being slow in our part of the matter, they will come back to the limb or pole where the queen is as soon as they miss her, and stay there instead of going back to their old home, as I supposed they would till I found out differently. I have thus held swarms for nearly 2 days in trying to see what could be done.

But as this is an article written so that the novice can "catch on," I think I hear some one asking "how the clipping is done."

There are various ways, and a few devices invented for holding the queen while she is being clipped, but with me I use only two plans, and have no use for anything further. The first is the one used at all times (except where I wish to do some special clipping to make sure of the identity of a certain queen which I have reason to believe will prove very valuable), the clipping in this case being done with the jack-knife, which is always with any apiarist, for a man is "not at home" unless he carries a knife in his pocket.

Having found the queen, catch her by the wings, using the thumb and forefinger of the left hand. Now place

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the sharpened blade of the knife on the wings of the queen, when both hands are lowered down within an inch or two of the tops of the frames in the hive, when the knife is lightly drawn, the wings severed, and the queen runs unharmed below. You need not be afraid of cutting the fingers, for if you stop drawing the knife as soon as the queen drops, you can not do so.

If you think you can not catch the queen "left handed," then use the right hand in catching her. Next hold her so her feet can touch the forefinger of the left hand, to which she will immediately cling. Now shut the thumb down carefully over her feet, being sure that you get all three legs on one side so she will not twist around and break a leg, as she would surely do if only one foot were held fast. Having her held thus securely, carefully lower her with her back to the top of the hive till her wings spread out on top of the same, when you can cut them off by bearing down with the knife on top of the edge of the hive.

If it is the first queen you have ever clipped, you may be a little nervous and shaky, but if you go slow and

think of nothing but the work you wish to perform, you will soon feel as much at home clipping queens as you are in removing the surplus honey from the hive.

Now for the other plan which is used to mark certain queens which you wish to keep track of. Have at the apiary a pair of small scissors, and when you wish to cut only one wing, or any definite part of the wing or wings, use these scissors instead of the knife. When doing this you will catch and hold the queen by the legs in your left hand, as told how to do above, when you will deliberately, with the points of the scissors, cut just as much, and just as little, and just where on the wings or wing as you have decided that should be done that the queen may be marked so as to distinguish the points which you wish to register in your book in which you keep the pedigree of all your best queens.

I would as soon think of going back to the old-fogy ways of our fathers, when keeping bees, as to work an apiary on the swarming plan without having the wings of all queens clipped.

Borodino, N. Y.

long-distance gathering does not appeal to me in a controversial manner, as I believe it is one that every intelligent bee-keeper can solve for himself, and, personally, I only wish I could truthfully (and thankfully) claim to have a strain or race of bees that would reach my pasturage 3 miles away, or even 10, for that matter.

Clipping Queens' Wings

Glad to note (page 262) that so well-known an apiarist as R. C. Aikin clips his queens while they are on the combs, without touching them with his fingers. Now, if any one comes along and pokes fun at me for advocating such a method, I shall just turn him over to the mercy of Mr. Aikin, and look on and smile.

The scissors I use are by actual measurement $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and have a curved point. Most of the small scissors are manufactured for ladies' use, and, as a consequence, the handles are too small for the clumsy fingers of one of the masculine gender. The pair I am using are, as previously stated, made specially for surgeons' use, so this difficulty is overcome, and at the same time the scissors are small and light.

I might add for the benefit of some who may try the plan, and at first pronounce it a failure, that the first time I attempted to clip in this way the method was pronounced impracticable, but after exercising a little patience, my mind was changed, and to-day I can clip the queens about as fast as you have a mind to pass them along.

Dysentery Among Bees

While at the Victoria County bee keepers' convention, a few weeks ago the subject of dysentery was under discussion. As previously stated, this trouble has been unusually prevalent during the past winter and present spring here in Ontario, and a number of the bee-keepers at the meeting referred to were telling of their losses from this cause.

Mr. J. T. Storer, of Lindsay, who is a very successful bee-winterer, stated that for more than 10 years past he had not had a single case of dysentery among his bees, and he attributed it all to the fact that he always made it a point to have every colony go into winter quarters *very heavy* with good stores. And, again, no matter how heavy a colony might be with honey in the fall, he wanted each colony to have at least 10 pounds of syrup made of best granulated sugar. Mr. Storer uses a fairly large hive, viz.: 8-frame Langstroth length, but 3 inches deeper, and he sees that each colony has at least 40 pounds of stores before putting it into the cellar. Although his cellars are about perfect, and his bees winter in ideal condition, consequently using very little stores, yet Mr. Storer finds no difficulty in turning this reserve supply of honey into his bees before the clover flow comes on.

Mr. Storer's success certainly speaks well for his methods, and while some



Conducted by J. L. BYER, Mount Joy, Ont.

The Prospects in Ontario

Reports as to how bees have wintered here in Ontario are exceedingly varied. Dysentery has been quite prevalent, and, on the whole, I am inclined to think that the loss will be above the average.

April, up to date of writing (17th), has been unusually cold; in fact, in our locality there has not been a single day that bees could fly freely. Cold north winds during the day, and freezing nights, have been the rule. As a result, *alsike*—which is our chief source of surplus here—is quite badly heaved, especially on low grounds. Taking everything into consideration, the prospects for a good crop of honey are, with us, none too flattering. However, last year prospects were good, yet the crop was almost *nil*; so with the hopefulness so characteristic of bee-keepers, we are trusting that conditions will be reversed this season.

Distance Bees Gather Nectar

I hardly know what to think of the claims of Doolittle, Chambers, and some others, relative to bees working freely at from 3 to 5 miles from the apiary. Mr. Chambers seems to think (page 279) that the race of bees has

much to do with this long-distance working, for he says: "I have learned to despise a race of bees that are not good for a crop of honey if it is to be had only 3 miles from them. Doolittle and others pin their faith to the Italians, and claim that it is common for their bees to work at distances named."

Now I happen to be an admirer of the same race that Mr. Chambers is so enthusiastic over, viz.: the Carniolans—and while I have them as well as Italians in my apiaries, yet I am sorry to confess that, so far, pasturage 3 miles or over from the bees might just as well, so far as practical results are concerned, be 20 miles away. While bees at my out-yard were working freely on buckwheat, at the home yard hardly a bee was moving, although the nearest fields of buckwheat were little over 3 miles away.

Have an idea that there is a good deal of truth in Mr. Chambers' guess, that the "location of the apiary with regard to the surrounding country has something to do with it." No doubt if there had been some fields of buckwheat, say half way between the home yard and the buckwheat 3 miles away, the bees would have found the latter also, as I have noticed that they seem to go further when they have something to lead them on, as it were, than is the case where there is a lot of blank territory to fly over. This question of

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may object to giving such a large amount of stores in the fall, personally I feel that it is wise to err on the safe side, and each year I am more and more inclined to think that *abundance* of good stores is one of the first requisites of good wintering, and also just as essential towards the rapid building of our colonies in the following spring—especially during a very backward season like we are just passing through, it is a source of comfort to know that

every colony has 20 pounds or more of honey in the hive, and that we need not worry for fear some colonies will starve.

Aside from the matter of worry, there is no question in my mind but that the feeding operations—opening up the hives during inclement weather—and other work necessitated by bees that are light in stores in early spring is anything but conducive to the welfare of the colonies.

one. Then the handling of the frames takes more time.

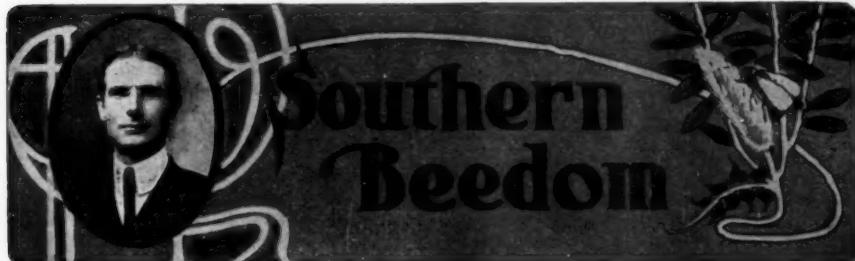
With the shallow extracting-super on the hive nearly full, a second one is given if needed before the flow for comb honey begins. Our object should be to have one super well filled on every colony by this time that is to store in the comb-honey supers. Just before the flow begins these supers are given *between* the full extracted honey super and the brood-chamber. Starters only are necessary in these, as the bees will be secreting, and have an excess of wax from the work done in the extracting-supers, and work will begin *at once*, so that by the time the main flow begins, the combs will be partly drawn out ready for the honey. This is an ideal condition to get fine comb honey, and built out excellently. The brood-nest will not be clogged with honey, but brood instead, and the colony will come through stronger with a lot of young bees for any subsequent honey gathering, either surplus or for winter stores.

The advantages of shallow supers are well known to many bee-keepers, even to some of the opposers of the divisible hive; but just here is where the divisible hive makes the shallow supers more valuable, in that they can be interchanged. For extracting supers I prefer them. Their first cost may be slightly more, but "I soon get that out of them." Lighter weight foundation can be used in full sheets, and without wiring. If starters are used there is not so much drone-comb. When filled the honey is removed by *cases*, in a wholesale way, in a short time. No use in trying to get around that. In uncapping I *know* I can uncup 2 of these faster than a deep comb, and 2 of my shallow combs hold more honey than one of the Langstroth size.

For bulk comb honey they are the best (and most extensively used). Weaker colonies will often fill one of these when they would not even have begun in a deep one, and this holds for all colonies during a short flow or in a bad year. Besides, deep frames can not be filled with full sheets of foundation light enough for comb honey, for it will be "gobby." Even shallow frames are better with starters only, especially when used under full supers of extracted honey, as already mentioned. This also answers our correspondent's question. Such supers of comb honey are also taken off in a wholesale way just like the extracted honey.

Who would think of producing section comb honey in anything but shallow supers of one tier of sections and the tiering-up system? Hence, I see no reason why the same should not be applied to extracted honey, for it is used in bulk-comb-honey production. My advice is to try a few such hives first and compare them with the others.

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Conducted by LOUIS H. SCHOLL, New Braunsfels, Tex.

The Langstroth or Divisible Brood-Chamber Hive—Which?

A correspondent from Germany has written me in regard to the kind of American style of hive I would advise him to adopt especially for out-apiaries, having read some of my articles on the divisible brood-chamber hives I have been using for several years. He has studied American apiculture thoroughly through several of the books and papers on bees and bee-keeping of this country, and is well acquainted with our hives, appliances, and methods of management. However, it has been a hard matter for him to decide which hive to adopt, since there is such a difference of opinion expressed in these books and papers. He had almost decided to adopt the regular standard Langstroth 10-frame hive when articles like those of Alexander were read; while, again, such articles as those by Stachelhausen, Hand, Chambers, and those by myself on the divisible brood-chamber hives and their advantages, changed his views and left him without knowing what to do.

He gives a description of the character and the conditions of the surroundings under which the honey crop is obtained, and the time of blooming of the sources from which the honey-flow comes, viz.: White clover blooming from June 15 to July 15; basswood latter part of June to end of July, and soon followed by the main source, the heather, lasting until Sept. 15. The bees are moved to the heather fields, which are from 3 to 10 miles distant from where our correspondent resides.

The honey from white clover and basswood is extracted, and the heather honey being too thick to be extracted, is mostly sold in the comb, the combs being cut from the "skeps" or frames. Sections are unknown.

He further questions me in regard to using full sheets of comb foundation in shallow frames for bulk comb honey—whether comb honey built

from such is not found "gobby" when eaten. Examinations of the apiaries are made every 6 or 8 days, no person being with the bees between these visits. I might add that my correspondent favors a hive like the one described by me, but wishes my opinion.

Now for my advice: Since I have had such excellent success with the divisible brood-chamber hive, I would certainly adopt it where the conditions are like those given, but whether this kind of hive is *best* for the other fellow is better found out by first giving a few a *thorough* trial. That is the way I began, with no great visions before me to begin with, but the actual practise and the success with them *gradually* induced me to increase the number in use.

Since *both* comb and extracted honey are the products of my dozen apiaries—much like that mentioned by the enquirer—the circumstances in both cases are about the same. Here extracted honey is first obtained in this wise: As soon as the colonies begin to get crowded room is given, not on top but *between* the upper section partly full of honey and lower one of the brood-chamber. When this is done the season is already well advanced, and, if the swarming season, it prevents swarming to a surety. The middle case is soon filled with brood, and the scattering honey over that used up by the bees is carried above into the upper case, now an extracting super. With a deeper hive, or the Langstroth, room could not be given in any such way except to set a shallow super on top. But unless the crowded condition of the brood-nest is broken up and laying-room provided, swarming will go on just the same; or the time-taking, tedious handling of frames must be resorted to.

If full-depth supers are used, combs can be lifted up and exchanged for empty ones, but I prefer the shallow supers; besides, the large supers would be too large for our purpose unless the extracted honey-flow was a very good

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The "Old Reliable" as seen through New and Unreliable Glasses,
By E. E. HASTY, Sta. B. Rural, Toledo, Ohio.

REQUEENING A LAYING-WORKER COLONY

It is so seldom worth while to save a colony with laying workers and try to make it accept a queen, that we might well afford to ignore the whole subject so far as direct profit is concerned. But if one brother succeeds and the rest of us mostly fail, we ought to be stirred up a little to find out the reason why. Can't afford to let our knowledge-box go empty. H. Piper, who evidently knows what he is talking about, has a method which he says succeeds every time. Queer that such simple variations should make such a difference. First, the queen must be an old one. Second, she must be as hungry as she can well be without getting weak. Third, put her on comb where she can't find any open honey to help herself to—and not in any crowd of bees. Watch and boss matters until you see her accept honey from the bees, and be sufficiently fed. Then quietly close up—they won't kill her after that. Well, what is there in this, I wonder? Puts her under slight bonds not to misbehave herself—that's good so far. Stomach well filled with food just regurgitated by citizens, makes her a little more at one with the other citizens than a meal drawn out of a cell could do. (Breathing exactly the same kind of onions that the rest breathe!) And why an old queen? Is it that young queens have a great deal more of the *ineradicable individualities* of odor? Possibly have also learned in their lives to be more *tolerant* both of manners and smells. Still, I would not have predicted success for the plan. If it's all right, something profitable to ordinary introduction ought to come out of it. He properly reminds us that the colony must have some young bees in a few days, else they can't rear brood much.

It's a sharp, and probably good, idea to use on bees united from above, to get them down at the rear rather than down over the entrance. The savage bees are down at the front. Help on this improvement by turning them end for end—so they will *incline* to go down at what seems to them to be the front, but is now really the rear. Page 319.

THAT TALLEST BEE-KEEPER.

So bee-keeper Rehorst kind o' upset the State of Wisconsin with his challenge for a taller man. Also upsets the rule that giants die young, as he is 65. Upsets my notions of how much stature goes down with age. I thought

it was but a fraction of an inch; and he has decreased $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Only 6 feet 8 inches now. Of course, he upsets the old proverb, "Like master, like man." If his bees were like himself, they would be worth going to see. Page 319.

SCALE RECORDS.

A. E. Patton's report of his scale hive is interesting. And reporting gains by weeks instead of by days gives something of a different turn to the thing in reporting a quite moderate flow. Scale records, we have never had a surplus of, I believe. Page 319.

NEW MOUSE FOR MOTH-LARVÆ—THOSE MOUSE EXPERIMENTS.

No, Mr. Pryal, we don't need to breed a new mouse to exterminate moth-larvæ. The one we now have is tip-

top, as I long ago found out. And, sometimes, as in your case, he does very little damage except in digging out the small, silk-bound nests that get formed. But I fear it won't do to assume in advance of experiment that he will do so good a job except when very hungry—which same is his normal condition when he gets into a comb closet.

I shall have to ask the forbearance of the brethren for not, even yet, repeating and verifying the important mouse experiment I gave a while ago—and for not getting to the new ones which I had in view. Be merciful to the everlasting worthlessness and do-nothingness of the invalid. But here is one experiment fresh as yesterday, that has its lesson as an experiment that went wrong: At 11 a.m. I put in the cage of two captive mice a frame taken from a starving colony. It had fresh-capped brood, and some bees scarcely dead crawled into the cells. What I expected was that the mice would eat quite a meal of the brood. What I *hoped* was that they would spend some of their leisure time pulling the bees out. Didn't do either one. What they did do was to gnaw the comb quite a bit in about five different places. Why was this thus? I had taken the comb out 6 hours after it was put in. Did they enjoy the taste of the comb as they chewed it? Or was it the simple joy of having something available to nibble? Or was it a little of both? *Hoc docet*. Our theories and expectations and hopes and notions oftentimes go all to pieces the minute they run up against some simple experiment. Page 333.



Send Questions either to the office of the American Bee Journal, or to
DR. C. C. MILLER, Marengo, Ill.
Dr. Miller does not answer Questions by mail.

Transferring Bees, Etc.

1. Some time ago I discovered bees in a tree after cutting it. I cut off as close on each side of their entrance as I thought I could without cutting through the honey, and brought them to the house. Can I transfer them to a hive? If so, how?
2. Must I have foundation-starters for the brood-frames?
3. Are the bees likely to swarm if left in the log?
4. The bees are dark with 3 yellow bands. What race are they?

ANSWER.—The bees are likely to swarm unless they have too much empty room in the log. If so, better saw off the empty part. Then leave them until they swarm, hive the swarm in a movable-frame hive, set it in place of the log-hive, and set the log-hive close beside it. A week later set the log-hive on top the other—of course, no communication between the two. Three weeks after the swarming you can set the log-hive in a new place to

build up for the next year. Or, you can cut open the log-hive and transfer into a frame-hive. If you care for honey and not increase, cut open the log-hive 3 weeks after swarming, brush all the bees into the swarm and melt up the combs. In any case the swarm is the one to count on for surplus.

If you give empty frames without starters the bees may build combs crosswise, and your combs will not be movable. Small starters will give too much drone-comb; full sheets will give all worker-comb.

If all the bees have 3 yellow bands they are likely Italians. If some have less than 3 bands, they are hybrids.

Perhaps Affected Only by Bad Weather

What is the matter with my bees? I had 36 colonies to start in the winter and lost 4. The 32 did finely in the warm spell in March, and I thought I never had had bees doing

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better; but April 1st they began to dwindle, and it looks now as if I were going to lose all of them. They look all right in color, but they can not fly. The ground is strewn with them crawling around, and they can not get on the wing. I opened the strongest colony to-day, thinking it was queenless, but found the queen and some brood, but no larvæ, and the queen had begun laying eggs, but not many. The strong colonies have lots of dead bees in front of them, and a great many not dead yet. They act as if they were poisoned, but it continues so long I fear it is bee-cholera. I have lost 13 colonies, and will lose several more if the weather stays bad and they keep dying as they have been doing. Their abdomens are natural in size and the color is natural. I do not see any young larvæ in front of the hives.

My bees were short of stores last fall and I fed them $1\frac{1}{2}$ barrels of granulated sugar, and so it can not be stores. INDIANA.

ANSWER.—The probability is that there is no trouble except the terrible weather. I don't remember a spring just like it in 45 years. A few days of summer in March made the bees start a lot of brood that they couldn't care for when it froze up again, and the nurses were in no condition to stand the confinement. To-day—2 days later than the date of your letter—it begins to look as if we might have spring again in place of winter, and we will hope that by the time this meets your eye in print your bees will be on the upgrade—greatly reduced, to be sure, but healthy, and hopefully building up again.

Feeding Pollen Substitutes

Where can I get a kind of bee powder or food that is fed to bees to make them work better and produce more honey? My neighbor uses such, but refuses to tell me where he got it, or what it is. It looks something like wheat flour. Bees like it very much.

MINNESOTA.

ANSWER.—There is no sort of secret powder or food that can be given to bees to make them do more unless it be honey and pollen, and there's no secret about that. The thing probably meant in the present case is some kind of meal used in place of pollen. In the spring, when the weather is good, and yet there is no pollen to be had, set out a box or dish of any size containing some kind of meal, and the bees will take it in place of pollen. Grain of any kind ground will answer. The kind I have used more than any other is ground oats and corn—the kind that cattle and horses eat, that kind being conveniently on hand. Put a stone or block under one side of the box, and when the bees dig the meal down level, change the stone to the other side. They will dig out all the fine parts, and the coarser parts that are left can be fed to 4-legged stock. But just as soon as they can get the natural pollen they will desert the meal-boxes.

Cold Weather for Bees—Rearing Queens—Brood Foundation—Hive-Covers

1. Is this steady cold weather liable to hurt the bees very much?

2. I also have a select breeding-queen which I bought last spring, and would like to rear all young queens from her. How would it do to build this colony up strong early, make them queenless, and after they had started queen cells divide them into about 7 nucleus colonies, and then when my other bees swarm unite each swarm with one of these nucleus colonies, letting the bees run through a queen-excluder and catch the queen and put her back into the old colony, move that to one side, cut out all queen-cells, and set the new swarm where the old one stood, and after 10 days remove the old colony to another stand? If this plan will not work, will you please give me a better one?

3. What kind of brood-foundation do you

use, and how many sheets does it run to the pound?

4. How would you have your hive-covers made if you were buying new hives? I want to increase to 12 or 14 colonies this year.

MICHIGAN.

ANSWERS.—1. Yes, in some places there has been a confinement of 3 weeks in April from continued cold weather, and there is danger that not a few colonies, reduced at this time of year to their smallest numbers, will have all stores within reach eaten, and will starve with plenty of honey in the hive.

2. If your bees don't get to swarming before you are ready for them, the plan will work. By adding combs of brood from other colonies you can have your best colony occupy 2 stories. Then you ought to be able to get your queens started in fruit-bloom, as this is supposed to be very abundant in your

region. I have worked the plan a little differently. Queens were clipped, and when the swarm issued the queen clipped was picked up, the nucleus set in place of the old colony, allowing the swarm to return and enter the nucleus of its own accord. This always succeeded, but some others have said that their queens were killed by the returning bees. If this should happen with you, you could cage the queen in a provisioned cage.

3. Medium brood, running 7 or 8 sheets to the pound.

4. "I'm not sure whether I'd get the kind I now have, or try rubberoid or something of the kind that might cost less. The ones I have are double, an upper and a lower part of $\frac{3}{8}$ stuff, $\frac{3}{8}$ inches apart, so as to leave an air-space between, covered with tin or zinc. The only objection is that they cost about 30 cents each.



Report of the 37th Annual Convention of the National Bee-Keepers' Association, held in San Antonio, Tex., Nov. 8-10, '06

(Continued from page 376)

CAUSE AND CURE OF BEE-PARALYSIS.

"What is the cause of bee-paralysis, and what is the best cure?"

Mr. Cogshall—I have been where it is. Mr. Poppleton has it in Florida. He can not cure it; the bees die about as fast as they increase, and just about keep even.

Mr. Piper—I asked that question. Of course I think I have a cure, but I would like to know the cause of it. I use sulphur as a remedy. Some recommend putting it on top of the frames. If you do you will kill the brood, though I found putting it on the bottom-board is effective, and it does not kill the brood. But of course I know there is another cure by introducing a new queen.

Pres. Dadant—I wish to say that this is an international disease; it is known in every country, although in cold countries it is less prevalent.

Mr. Anderson—I once thought that it was caused from certain flowers until I experimented with extracted honey from a few colonies. Those bees I carried through on the sugar syrup. In order to test the matter I extracted the honey late in the fall, from a few colonies, and allowed the bees to clean up the combs, and I used those combs to feed the other bees; that is, I fed the sugar syrup. I hived the bees and found them this way: Those bees that were carried through on the sugar syrup showed the disease equally as bad as the others.

Dr. Bohrer—With regard to paralysis, my opinion is that it affects the bees just as it does mankind, and I don't

know what to attribute it to. Persons are not exempt from paralysis at any age; the infant will have it, the 5 or 10 year old boy will have it, and the old man will have it, and very often when he least expects it. In fact, an old man in my settlement boasted of his good health and yet he was taken home from prayer-meeting stricken with paralysis and died the next day. Paralysis, I say, affects the nervous system, and if we can find some kind of honey that will injure the nervous system we may get at the cause. Dr. Phillips is conducting experiments along this line. I suggest that he try it. Sulphur, it is said, has cured it by being sprinkled among the bees; but I don't know whether it has.

Mr. Rankin—The last year and a half I have been in California, and most of my work has been on bee-diseases. I am not prepared to say that it is a nervous disease, but I am prepared to say that I don't know the cause, and don't know a remedy.

Wm. Atchley—I have had a little experience along that line. I don't believe that it is catching. I have tried to see if I could not affect other colonies with it, but failed. It is no doubt caused by the queen, and I have cured it by doing away with that queen.

L. Jones—I have had some experience with paralysis of the bees. Dr. Bohrer said he attributed it to the nervous system. I think it is due to the digestive system. I read an article advising the use of sulphur—just sprinkle it over the top of the frames. I had a man working for me, and we sprinkled the sulphur over the frames, and the next two or three days he said: "Look here, Jones, I believe you have killed every one of them." That was late in the fall, and the next spring the disease did not show up. Mr. Atchley says he does not believe it is catching. I don't

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know whether it is catching or not, but I would have one hive affected here, and another over there, and they would die.

A Member—I would like to call your attention to the fact that Mr. Jones has said that he sprinkled sulphur, and that he killed the bees. Is it not possible you killed the bees that would have died any way?

Mr. Jones—I don't know. After that the dying ceased, and the next spring the disease did not show up on those colonies.

Mr. Anderson—I believe my bees had that disease in Utah as well as anywhere else. At one time I went into my apiary with a Southern bee-keeper of much experience, and we noticed in the front of a colony dead bees strung out for some distance. He said: "What is the matter?" We found 3 colonies in an apiary of over 100 in just that condition. He said: "I wish you would go right to town and see if anyone is spraying trees, and ascertain what it is with." I did so, and I did not find anyone spraying. I said, "I am going to get right on a horse and go to see Mr. R., who is our county inspector." He said, "It is simply a revolution going on, and when they get that conflict finished they will be all right." I went home and inspected my bees, and was convinced that there was a fight on. This may be a mistake, but I have never seen anything like it since.

Pres. Dadant—I think it will be necessary for me to say that this is out of the question. They are not fighting, the other bees are carrying them off. This has nothing to do with bee-paralysis, or "May Disease," as the Europeans call it, and I would like to hear more about it.

Mr. Stone—Is it not a settled fact that medical men can not cure paralysis? The reason I say this is that if it can not be cured, why try to cure the disease, but just prevent the spread of it? I know a case where there was a doctor who had a daughter that was paralyzed; he went to an osteopathist and said, "I have a daughter in the same condition that I lost one two years ago; you can cure her." And the osteopathist did cure her.

Pres. Dadant—Now, we are off the subject again. We called up the subject of bee-paralysis. The gentleman said it was not a nervous disease, but a disease of the digestive organs, although we call it bee-paralysis.

Mr. Parsons—I have had a little observation along the line of paralysis for more than 25 years, and a short while ago I was looking over my journal, and I found a great many instances where colonies had been affected with it. It appears in colony No. 4, and the record stated that it was not thought worth moving, and some 4 to 6 weeks later it cast a swarm; it had built up sufficiently to cast a swarm and that swarm I found was entirely clear of paralysis. I had such a case, and kept that colony built up, and I had no return of the disease during the next season. It was our custom for a number of years, that when a colony was affected with what we call paralysis, I would take the hives off and fumigate

them with sulphur, put the combs in a honey-house, distribute the brood, sometimes among the other colonies, and I would see no evil effects of it. But of late years, when I see a colony affected with it, I have to be more barbarous, so I simply cure it by fumigating the bees; but it is my opinion that it is not spread by an interchange of combs, and I know that it does get well, and remains well for one season. I have had in my yards colonies affected with it for 3 years, and they never would build up so as to gather any surplus honey. I have tried a good many treatments—nearly everything that I read in the bee-papers—but if I have ever found anything that was good, I don't know of it.

Pres. Dadant—Mr. France has called our attention to the fact that bee-diseases would be discussed Monday, and I will now call for the next question.

Dr. Bohrer—I want to make myself better understood. It is definitely known that there is a kind of paralysis that comes from the digestive organs.

SMOKER-FUEL.

"Are dry rags and old bones good for smoker-fuel?"

Mr. Aten—I read in a paper that some suggest old bones and dry rags for fuel.

Mr. Holekamp—I suggested dry leaves.

MOths AND POLLENLESS COMBS.

"Will moth-worms destroy comb where there is no pollen?"

Mr. Hyde—I dropped that question in. I thought I would like to hear some of the bee-keepers talk on it. I can give my experience in a few words. Where there is no pollen there will be no moth-worm.

Dr. Phillips—I have seen it in comb foundation.

Mr. Victor—Combs with pollen are much worse than combs without pollen.

Wm. Atchley—I wish to differ from Mr. Hyde very much, as I have had them to eat up combs with no pollen in them, and have had them to destroy solid cakes of beeswax.

Mr. Hyde—In that case, was there not some comb near by, or did they degenerate?

Wm. Atchley—Why, I don't think there was any empty comb there.

Mr. Wurth—I have had the same experience as Mr. Atchley, in regard to destroying combs with no pollen in them; they will destroy them.

Mr. Stone—My experience has been like the one who asked the question. I have never known the moth to be in any of the extracting frames in my honey-house, and I have always attributed it to the fact that there was no pollen in the frames.

Mr. France—As a partial explanation of moth-worms working on wax, in many places in our State, it is the combs with apparently no pollen that are rendered into wax; and when that wax is settled, you would be surprised to see the amount of pollen in it. It is the same way with foundation. More or less pollen is in it, as in the wax. I seldom see them in new combs.

Mr. White—I want to give an experience I had last spring with the worms. During our convention in North Texas, we had a little discussion about the moth-worm. Some asked me to bring in a dry comb. As near as I could tell it was clean, smooth, nice comb, and after the convention was over I just set it back in the corner of the office, and it was left there for a few weeks; I did not move it, and I thought one day that I would put it away. The moth-worms had eaten it up, while, according to my judgment, there was no pollen in it; if any was there it was very little, and I thought then that the particles had fallen out on the floor. I had learned a lesson. I believe worms will get into combs where there is no pollen.

Pres. Dadant—I wish to correct an impression, which I consider is a mistake, given by Mr. France, that foundation contain a great deal of pollen.

Mr. France—You are mistaken: I did not say that.

Pres. Dadant—Did you not say that melted wax contained pollen?

Mr. France—I was speaking of old wax.

Mr. Jones—I have had a good deal of experience with combs and moth-worms. I have a honey-house that I put away my combs in, and I some way favor Mr. Hyde's idea. In putting away those combs I was very careful that no pollen whatever got in, but I can not say absolutely that it did not get in there. I have noticed that if there was a little brood they are just as bad to commence on it, and when I looked over my combs the moth-worm had commenced there.

PERFECT PACKAGES FOR SHIPPING HONEY.

"Is there a way to educate the bee-keepers to use perfect packages for shipping honey?"

Mr. Muth—It was I who put that question in. The majority of bee-keepers ship their honey to market in second-hand molasses barrels, and second-hand tin cans, and it is only those perfect packages from the West that come through without loss. Imperfect packages make high rates on freight, and unpleasant business relations, and if they can get down to new packages—if honey is worth anything at all, it would be a good idea to educate them a little on this point. As it is now, most of the small shippers ship their honey in a very careless manner. The bee-papers could do a whole lot more on that subject, but they don't.

Mr. Hyde—I thought that we bee-keepers in Texas were doing pretty well along that line the last few years. In 1902 and 1903 we had a good deal of trouble in the packages for shipping—a great deal of loss in the transit—and all sized cans and packages that could be thought of; but we bee-keepers of Texas saw that we needed some packages of the proper size, and not too many of them, so at College Station in our meeting this year, we passed upon it that a certain sized package be used, and we also recommended a heavier case. We put this before the railroad companies, and they accepted our speci-

fications. We thought that was settled in Texas. I don't know what other States are doing. We have the two 60-pounds, and ten 12-pounds; and then we have two more sizes—the ten 6-pounds, and the twenty 3-pounds.

Mr. York—I agree with Mr. Muth, that the bee-papers could do more along this line, but the dealers should write something about the proper shipping packages. I am reminded of a shipment that came from a dealer in Wisconsin lately, in second-hand glucose barrels. And the drayman made the remark that the dealer was shipping in glucose! I think that ought to be stopped.

Mr. Muth—I have had some experience in shipping honey in glucose barrels; that man that shipped the honey in glucose barrels lacked experience; that is very customary. However, if you have a clean heart and clean hands you don't care what kind of barrel honey is shipped in. I do know positively that glucose barrels are the best for honey; they have 6 hoops, and they will hold 700 pounds of honey, net. If you will have 2 more hoops placed on them, and drive them tight, they will not leak, and you can ship them anywhere throughout this world. I have shipped them to New York, New Orleans, and many places in the South, and I will guarantee that they will stand shipment in the hottest weather; they are a perfect success if it is done right. But when you buy them from a grocer and soak them up with water, and then fill them with honey, the receiver is robbing you, they say.

(Continued next week.)



Destruction of Bees by Smelter-Smoke

After a severe struggle of over 2 years, we have finally succeeded in accomplishing a settlement by arbitration with the great smelter companies in the Salt Lake Valley for the destruction of the bee-industry by the poison of smelter fumes. Prior to the advent of these smelters the far-famed Salt Lake Valley was the banner county of Utah for the production of bees and honey. Ten years ago there were over 10,000 colonies of bees in the county. Now there are not 10 left. At first when bees began to die off, the bee-keepers, not knowing just what the trouble was, began to buy more, which died off faster than the first ones. Some of our bee-keepers, having done well with their bees, depending upon them for a living, did not like to give them up. These lost all, and in some instances these losses were very serious. While at first the bees thus purchased partly paid for themselves before they died, now they die off without producing anything, the writer having lost, all told, over 1,000 colonies, and a few others in like proportions.

While our bee-keepers have suffered an enormous loss, we finally compromised on a basis of \$1,500 from each of the 4 smelter companies, and these figures, as compared to our loss, are entirely too low. But we started into this matter for a friendly settlement with the smelter people by arbitration, and we told them that if we did not succeed it would not be the bee-keepers' fault. And if we had entered a suit, a judgment might have been the extent of our victory, which is a poor thing to live on. But a little cash has helped many of our



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George W. York & Co.—The two queens received of you some time ago are fine. They are good breeders, and the workers are showing up fine. I introduced them among black bees, and the bees are nearly yellow now, and are doing good work. A. W. SWAN.

Nemaha Co., Kan., July 15.

George W. York & Co.—After importing queens for 15 years you have sent me the best. She keeps 9½ Langstroth frames fully occupied to date, and, although I kept the hive well contracted to force them to swarm, they have never built a queen-cell, and will put up 100 pounds of honey if the flow lasts this week. CHAS. MITCHELL.

Ontario, Canada, July 22.

George W. York & Co.—The queen I bought of you has proven a good one, and has given me some of my best colonies. N. P. OGLESBY.

Washington Co., Va., July 22

George W. York & Co.—The queen I received of you a few days ago came through O.K., and I want to say that she is a beauty. I immediately introduced her into a colony which had been queenless for 20 days. She was accepted by them, and has gone to work nicely. I am highly pleased with her and your promptness in filling my order. My father, who is an old bee-keeper, pronounced her very fine. You will hear from me again when I am in need of something in the bee-line. E. E. McCOLM.

Marion Co., Ill., July 13.

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To any one whose own subscription to the Weekly American Bee Journal is paid in advance, we will mail a Fine Standard-Bred Untested Italian Queen next May or June, for each new name and address sent to us with \$1.00 for the Bee Journal a year. No one can get for himself the Bee Journal a year and the Queen for \$1.00. The Queen is offered as a premium for the work of getting some one else to take the Bee Journal a year. If you, yourself, want the Bee Journal a year and the Queen, send \$1.50 for the two, and we will book your order for a Queen. Queen orders will be filled in rotation—"first come, first served."

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American Bee Journal

bee-keepers materially. Besides, there are 2 sides to every vexed question.

In this case the smelters were made welcome, as no one anticipated any trouble from their operation. Then if we take into consideration the unforeseen complications of this long-drawn-out question, our bee-keepers realize the situation we have had to cope with, and they are very well satisfied with the final settlement reached, and I feel grateful to them for the many thanks and kind expressions for my feeble efforts in this matter. Personally, it has been one of the fights of my life. I have neither time nor space to describe the voluminous correspondence of our long and persistent efforts and determination never to "give in" short of a successful issue, and while our smelter friends gave us all due credit, they thanked us for our patience and courteous good-nature, which was mutual and thus, although it was a long, tedious affair, it was pleasant throughout.

The locating of the smelters in the center of the Salt Lake Valley was a grave blunder that should not be repeated, but instead of moving them—which certainly should eventually be done—some parties are agitating the building of others under like conditions, and one was actually built last year near the agricultural center of Weber and Boxelder counties, and a protest was sent by the bee-keepers to the company before the smelter was built. If the bees were destroyed by the smoke—which is more than likely—the bee-keepers will claim full damage for their loss. There is no question but that the smelters have destroyed, and are destroying, the agricultural industry of Salt Lake county, and it certainly should be stopped. The agricultural settlers have rights which should be respected. Their homes and farms should not be destroyed. Then let the smelters be built in or near the mountains where the smoke will seek the hills or in some other location where the rights of others will not be injured. E. S. LOVESY.

Salt Lake City, Utah, March 12.

Covered Entrances—Grass in Front of Entrances—Solar Wax-Extractor—Caucasians

About a year ago, O. L. Hershisser in a long article described his patented bottom-board. One of its virtues was to prevent colonies becoming depopulated by many bees leaving the cluster and going out through the entrance and not returning. Now it may be that things would go differently with the Hershisser bottom, but with an ordinary one I have convinced myself that it is bad to fasten a bee-tight screen over the entrance.

Last fall I made the entrances of 18 colonies bee-tight with wire-cloth. In 3 or 4 weeks after cellaring, all colonies with closed entrances made much commotion. This also stirred up others with open entrances near by. One shut-in colony acted the same as when a hive is closed in summer. All of its bees, so it appeared, were at the entrance attempting to get out. As I could not drive them to their places and tie them, and as they did not cease their attempts at getting out voluntarily, I removed the screen. They then rushed out and many flew away, and, of course, were lost forever. This colony has been comparatively uneasy until today (February 26). As the weather permitted, I gave them a flight and now hope they will "keep their mouths shut."

Those are fine California views on the cover page of the February 21st issue, but what tall grass or weeds among the hives! Does Sir Patrick not know that Doolittle claims that the yield may be reduced one-half by such obstructed entrances? I dislike to see bees pull on a spear of grass as they will when grass grows in front of the entrances. It makes me feel as if I were attempting to pull out large trees that some one else (my superior, of course) had neglected to remove, though a great hindrance to my work.

The "Canadian Beedomer" thinks a solar wax-extractor unnecessary, as the cappings can be washed of adhering honey and then melted in water. But how about pieces of dark comb that accumulate during the busy season? If not put through a solar-extractor, the residue to be rendered by the hot-water method, I have found that they will mostly be eaten up by the wax-moth larva, keep them where I may.

As I think many tried Caucasian bees last season, I am surprised to see so very few reports of their accomplishments. I have had one colony for 2 seasons, and that has been one too many. I dare not "kick" them as some assert they do, for they will kick back. In other words, they are not gentle as has

been asserted. Neither are they as active workers as Italians. "Perhaps not pure," did you say? Well, I got the queen from the Government apiaries at Washington.

Metz, Wis.

F. A. STROHSCHNEIDER.

Keeping Bees in Buildings

On page 318, a Pennsylvanian asks Dr. Miller about keeping bees in a back yard, also about having them in a building. In accordance with my experience Dr. Miller's answer is right. It may be interesting to other readers of the American Bee Journal to learn what has actually been done on that line. I kept from 10 to 50 colonies of bees for 26 years in a town in Lebanon Co., Pa., about 30 yards from Main street, most of them in a building with an open front; and 41 years here in Virginia, 20 years of which were in a town here. I now have 10 colonies in my barn. I cut out an opening 3 feet high on the east gable end, set the hives inside of the building and they do better than the 60 colonies right outside on the ground in pairs, not over 6 feet from the barn, 10 in a row. During this time I had 2 colonies in my house inside at the gable-end window, raising the sash $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches almost right along Main street in the town. I never had any trouble nor was annoyed with the bees at the barn or here, myself and family passing daily under and between those on the ground.

I practise Dr. Miller's advice about opening the hives and working late in the day, when I can.

I find the Italian and golden strains more gentle than any other I have, or have had. Caution must be used about the mice in the barn, as I lost 3 good colonies last winter; but in the summer I have no trouble.

WILLIAM URICH.

Herndon, Va., April 23.

Cold April—Slow Breeding

A very cold April here thus far, and the time which bees gained in March has probably been more than lost now. Breeding has not progressed with rapidity, and colonies are to-day with less brood than they usually are at this season. But they bred early in March and young bees have very largely replaced the old bees, and you know that this means rapid work as soon as warm weather does come.

ALLEN LATHAM.

Norwich, Conn., April 21.

Report for Last Season

I now have 7 colonies. Last year I had 5, and the year before that 2; so you see I have been going slowly, as you advise. My honey crops have been: 1905, 189 sections and 61 pounds of extracted honey from 2 colonies, and increased to 5 by natural swarming (I use the $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch plain section with 8-frame dovetailed hive; 1906, 126 sections and 46 pounds extracted from 5 colonies, and increased to 6. All was buckwheat as white clover did not yield. This is the amount of honey I sold besides what we use, which is considerable. I took my bees out of the cellar March 26. They gathered some pollen in March from willows and maples, but have not had a flight this month, as it has been cold all the time.

A. OTT.

South Haven, Mich., April 17.

Chunk Honey—Queen-Excluders

I notice in the Report of the National Convention at San Antonio, last November, that the Report has me to say that I am a comb honey producer. This is a mistake. I produced something like 16,000 pounds of honey about 20 cases of which was chunk honey.

I do not use queen-excluders, and will not have them on the place, except one or two to strain out an occasional queen that I can not find. I coax my queens to lay in any part of the hive they desire. I do this to have populous colonies, and a populous colony produces a large yield of honey. I have used queen-excluders, and my experience with

them goes to show that they not only restrict the queen in many cases, but retard the bees in transit to the upper story. The queen-excluder for me is a positive nuisance, and I would not tolerate one on a hive for any consideration.

As to section-honey producing, I am not in it. I hate sections worse than I do a scrap-iron pile. They are a nuisance for me from every point of view. There is at least 4 times as much work connected with their production as compared to chunk honey, saying nothing about short sections, and non-marketable sections due to a host of causes that are familiar to every bee-man of note. I took all my sections and section paraphernalia, piled it up and had a huge bonfire.

There is no trouble to sell all the extracted and chunk comb honey that you can produce, if you put it out under a positive guarantee as to its purity, etc., and back the guarantee with the money. I do not say it boastfully, but I fell short about 7000 pounds of extracted honey last season, at good prices.

Bartlett, Tex.

T. P. ROBINSON.

A Colony That Deserted Its Hive

Day before yesterday a "swarm" of bees alighted in this town. I heard of it and could not believe it. But I went and saw the tree or bush and hunted the man that hived them, and also saw the bees. I have kept bees 50 years, more or less, and never knew of the like.

The weather is cold; no buds nor flowers have started; but a cold wind with nothing for bees to get. The man who found the bees is feeding them.

WILLARD MANN.

Buffalo, Minn., April 25.

Mating of Bees

My bees came through the winter in fair condition, but we have had a very cold and chilly spring, and I fear much brood will be lost. I hope it may soon get warmer, and the bees make up for lost time and come out all right.

Not long ago I saw in some bee-paper that a man in England had made some experiments to get queens fertilized by attaching them to a fine thread fastened to a pole, and the writer seemed to think the plan entirely new. Now if I am not mistaken, the plan was tried some 20 years or more ago by Mr. Demaree, of Kentucky. So you see the plan was not a new one.

On page 295 (1906) Prof. Cook wrote in one of his letters from Germany, that at one time he witnessed the mating of bumble-bees, and that the act proved fatal to the male. Last summer while going through the pasture, I saw a very large bumble-bee rise up before me and fly about 50 yards and alight on some weeds. I followed it up, and, when close enough, I saw it was 2—a large female—and a smaller one on its back—I suppose a male. When I came closer they would fly some distance and alight again. They would fly away whenever I came a little too close, until finally I lost sight of them. My observations do not correspond with those of the Professor, but I did not see the finish.

FRED BECHLY.

Searsboro, Iowa, April 15.

Wanted

Shook Swarms, with Queen, on one frame. Safe arrival guaranteed. State kind, weight, price, and time of shipment.

19A1t

J. B. MASON,

MECHANIC FALLS, MAINE.

For Sale

TESTED ITALIAN QUEENS, \$1.25 each. Extra good, \$2.50 each. Make money order on Canton, Mo.

19A1t

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 Untested "50 " 5.50 "

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WE SELL ROOT'S GOODS IN MICHIGAN

Let us quote you prices on Sections, Hives, Foundation, etc., as we can save you time and freight. Beeswax Wanted for Cash.

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D. J. BLOCHER, Pearl City, Ill.

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 4A16t Nordhoff, Cal.

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Reared from Imported and Home-Bred Caucasian, Carniolan, Hall's Superior Goldens, and Leather-Colored Italian Breeders. Their bees are honey-getters. Untested Queens, \$1; 6, \$5; 12, \$9. Select untested, \$1.25; 6, \$6; 12, \$10. Tested, \$1.50; select, \$2.50; best, \$5. List free.

T. S. HALL,
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Choice home-bred and imported stock. All Queens reared in full colonies.

One Untested Queen \$1.10
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Will greatly increase the yield of honey. Am now taking orders for **Cook's Select-Bred Queens**—to be sent as soon as weather permits mailing. Also Caucasian Queens from imported stock.

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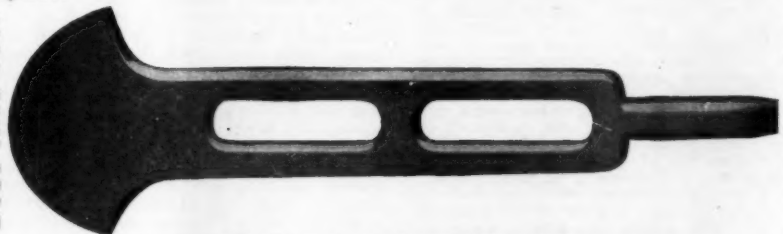
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Bee-keepers have long needed a special Tool to work among the hives during the bee-season. The one shown here was invented by Wm. Muench, a Minnesota bee-keeper, some years ago, but it was not on the market before. We have lately bought this Tool, and all rights, from Mr. Muench's widow, and have had the first lot made. They are ready for delivery now.

Best Hive-Tool



Only 30c, by mail

(This picture is exactly one-half the size.)

DESCRIPTION.—The Ideal Hive-Tool is made of high-grade malleable iron, much like wrought iron, 3/4 inches long. The middle part is 1 1/16 inches wide and 7-32 thick. The smaller end is 1 1/4 inches long, 1/2 inch wide, and 7-32 thick, ending like a screw-driver. The larger end is wedge-shaped, having a sharp semi-circular edge, making it almost perfect for prying up covers, supers, etc., as it does not mar the wood.

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In the first edition (1903) of Dr. Miller's "Forty Years Among the Bees," page 58, he says: "Of all the hive-tools I have tried, I like best the Muench tool." On Jan. 7, 1907, he wrote us saying he thought "just as much of the tool as ever."

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Now is the time for you to buy your Bee-Supplies. We manufacture Bee-Hives of all kinds The Dovetail, Langstroth, Alternating, and the Massie Hives, we make all of them. Remember that half the work and worry of your apiary is removed when you use our goods. Every one knows the advantage of a good, substantial hive; the quality of material and workmanship in our hives are not excelled by any other make.

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All Bingham Smokers are stamped on the tin, "Patented 1878, 1892, and 1903," and have all the new improvements.

Smoke Engine—largest smoker made.....	\$1.50—4	inch stove
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The above prices deliver Smoker at your post-office free. We send circular if requested.

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That are bred from the best stock this country can produce Bright Golden and 3-banded Queens ready to ship May 20. I am now booking orders which will be filled and filled in rotation. After May 20 all orders will receive prompt attention. Untested Queens 60 cents each; 6 for \$3.35, or 12 for \$6.50. Tested, \$1.00, or 6 for \$5.50. 2 frame nuclei with Young Queen after June 1, \$2.00
15A26t Box 340, Norwalk, Ohio.

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Untested.....	60c each; six, \$3.50
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Orders filled in rotation. Send orders to

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The old ones don't need to be told of the merits of these goods. They will come back to us this year because they have found that Lewis Beeware is as nearly perfect as long experience, modern machinery and the best material can make it.

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COLORADO—Colorado Honey-Producers' Association, Denver.

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Grand Junction Fruit Growers' Association, Grand Junction.

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IOWA—Adam A. Clarke, Le Mars.

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Guaranteed highest quality at lowest price. Address,

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JAMESTOWN, N. Y.

(Established 25 years.)

Honey and Beeswax

CHICAGO, April 4.—Market is quite bare of best grades of comb honey. When sales are made it is on a basis of 15¢@17¢, with very little outlet for the off-grades. Extracted, 7¢@8¢; off grades, 6¢@6½¢. Beeswax in good demand at 30¢@32¢.

R. A. BURNETT & CO.

CINCINNATI, April 16.—There is nothing new in the honey market, excepting that this part of the country is bare of comb honey, and it is well, for consumers will appreciate the new crop more when it arrives. We are selling extracted amber honey in barrels at from 5½¢@6½¢. Fancy table honey, 8½¢@9¢, in crates of two 60-pound cans. For choice yellow beeswax, free from dirt, 32¢ cash, delivered here.

THE FRED W. MUTH CO.

PHILADELPHIA, April 25.—The comb honey market, on account of the lateness of the season, has grown just a little weaker in the last 10 days, although extracted honey is kept very firm. We think, however, there will be comparatively little comb honey carried over except in very small lots. We quote: Fancy comb honey, 14¢@15¢; No. 1, 13¢@14¢; amber, 12¢@13¢. Fancy extracted honey, 7¢@8¢; light amber, 6¢@7¢. Beeswax firm, 32¢.

We are producers of honey and do not handle on commission. Wm. A. SELSER.

NEW YORK, April 12.—COMB HONEY.—There is very little doing; stock of white honey of all grades is practically cleaned up, and small shipments which arrive from time to time, find ready sale at 14¢@15¢ for choice white stock, and 12¢@13¢ for off grades. Considerable dark comb honey is left on the market, and there does not seem to be any demand whatsoever. We quote nominally at 10¢@11¢, but in large lots we doubt whether this price can be realized. EXTRACTED HONEY.—California stock seems to be well cleaned up, and we are informed that there is very little left on the Coast, and, before the new crop is marketed, whatever is on the market now will have been consumed. The prospects in California are very good for a large crop, but nothing definite can be said at this time, and there is no surety of a big crop until it is actually gathered. Last season the outlook was just as good, but in the height of the season, cold northern winds and generally contrary weather affected the crop to such an extent that it was small as in previous years. With favorable

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Complete stock for 1907 now on hand.

FREIGHT-RATES FROM CINCINNATI
are the **LOWEST, ESPECIALLY**
for the **SOUTH,**

as most all freight now goes through Cincinnati.

Prompt Service is what I practice.

You will

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SAVE MONEY BUYING FROM ME.

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Let me
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Order for

QUEENS

bred in separate apiaries,
the **GOLDEN YELLOWS, CARNI-**

LANs, and CAUCASIANS.

For prices, refer to my catalog, page 29.

C. H. W. WEBER CINCINNATI
... OHIO ...

Office and Salesrooms, 2146-48 Central Ave. Warehouses, Freeman and Central Aves.

weather in California for the next two months a large crop will undoubtedly be harvested, and if so prices will naturally be considerably lower than those of the past season and present prices. We quote white sage at from 7¢@9¢, and light amber at from 7¢@7½¢. Near-by, as well as Southern honey, is well cleaned up, and the markets are in good shape for new crop. Cuban and other West Indian honeys are arriving in large quantities, most of which are sold for export. The market is firm, at from 58¢@60¢ per gallon, duty paid according to quality. Beeswax firm and steady at from 30¢@31¢.

HILDRETH & SEGELKEN.

INDIANAPOLIS, April 12.—comb honey is not plentiful, but demand is slack. Fancy white comb brings 16¢@17¢; No. 1 white, 14¢; amber, 12¢@13¢. Best grades of extracted honey bring 8¢@9¢; amber, 6¢@7¢. Good average beeswax sells here at \$35 per 100 pounds.

WALTER S. POWDER.

TOLEDO, May 3.—There is very little demand for comb honey as is usually the case at this season of the year. Fancy white would bring in a retail way 16¢@17¢; No. 1, 15¢@16¢, with no demand for dark honey. Extracted is very scarce and none being offered for sale. Beeswax is bringing 28¢.

THE GRIGGS BROS. & NICHOLS CO.

KANSAS CITY, Mar. 30.—The demand for comb honey is light, as also are the receipts. The market is about bare of extracted. We quote: No. 1 white comb, 24-sec. cases, \$3.10 to \$3.25; No. 2, \$2.50 to \$2.75. Extracted, white, 8¢@9¢; amber, 7¢@8¢. Beeswax, 28¢.

C. C. CLEMONS & CO.

DENVER, Feb. 14.—Producers in this State are practically closed out of both comb and extracted honey. We have not sufficient good comb honey to supply our local trade, but have a good supply of white extracted of excellent quality. We quote strictly No. 1 white comb honey, per case of 24 sections, at \$3.20; No. 1, light amber, \$3; and good No. 2, \$2.80. White extracted, 8¢@8½¢ per pound; light amber, 7½¢@8¢. Clean, yellow beeswax, 27¢@28¢, delivered here.

THE COLO. HONEY-PRODUCERS' ASSN.

CINCINNATI, April 3.—The market on honey is entirely bare of fancy comb honey; No. 2, selling at 12½¢, and slow sales. Light amber extracted sells in barrels at 5½¢@6¢. Beeswax 32¢, delivered here.

C. H. W. WEBER.

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That covers the whole Apicultural Field more completely than any other published, send \$1.20 to

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—FOR HIS—

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Liberal Discounts to the Trade.

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We handle the finest bee supplies, made by the W. T. FALCONER MFG. CO., Jamestown, N. Y. Big Discounts on early orders, let us figure with you on your wants.

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"DADANT'S FOUNDATION"

IT EXCELS

EVERY INCH equal to sample

Beauty, Purity, Firmness.

No Sagging, No Loss.

Twenty-seven Years of Experience.

We Guarantee Satisfaction.

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BEE-SUPPLIES of all kinds.

Beeswax Wanted at all times...



DADANT & SONS, Hamilton, Ill.

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talk for themselves; having bought once, you will buy again. Our orders show that. The reason for this is that nothing is used in the making of our **BEE-GOODS** that we know is not fit to go in. Why should we when we have plenty of the best as it comes direct from the forest to our mill and factory.

SECTIONS are made of the basswood timber, grown here in the basswood belt of Wisconsin.

DOVETAILED HIVES, of lumber almost clear, made accurate and smooth.

SHIPPING-CASES, strong and neat—nothing flimsy about them.

SHIPPING FACILITIES THE BEST

You will get your orders sent on very short time, as we are located on three direct railroads to Chicago, there connecting with the trunk lines for the East, South, and Southwest, and some parts of the West. The West by way of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

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MARSHFIELD MFG. CO., Marshfield, Wis.

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MICHIGAN—Lengst & Koenig, 127
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S. D. Buell, Union City.

NEBRASKA—Collier Bee-Supply Co.,
Fairbury.

CANADA—N. H. Smith, Tilbury, Ont.

ARIZONA—H. W. Ryder, Phoenix.

MINNESOTA—Northwestern Bee-Sup-
ply Co., Harmony.

ILLINOIS—D. L. Durham, Kankakee.

OHIO—F. M. Hollowell, Harrison.

TEXAS—White Mfg. Co., Blossom.

WISCONSIN—S. W. Hines Mercantile
Co., Cumberland.

J. Gobell, Glenwood.